

REMARKS

Claims 1-68 are pending in this application.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-68 under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Klingman (US Patent No. 5729594). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The present invention will be explained, by way of example only, with reference to FIG. 1 and related description in the specification. The invention concerns an online purchasing of a ticket for an event such as a concert, sporting event or train ride. These are all services or performances to be performed in the future. For example, a train ride is a transportation service that takes a ticket holder to a particular destination that departs at a particular time in the future. As another example, the ticket may be for a football game starting at a particular time in the future.

In the past, a user purchasing such a ticket would pay for it and then wait for a physical ticket to arrive. As can be appreciated this is very inconvenient as the delivery takes a considerable time, not to mention the added fees for delivery. Moreover, if the start time for the service or performance is very close to the ticket purchase time, the ticket holder might even miss the performance.

The present invention seeks to solve these problems by using an IC card reader/writer attached to a computer having an online access to a ticket issuer through the Internet, for example. Once the ticket purchaser pays for a ticket, the ticket issuer 10 transmits an electronic ticket ("e-ticket") 12 which is written to the IC card 13. Since the e-ticket contains all the information of a paper ticket, it is freely transferable and negotiable to any other person as the e-ticket itself represents ownership.

As time for performance (e.g., football game) approaches, the IC card holder would go to the location where the performance is to be held (e.g., football stadium). A ticket dispenser 30 is conveniently located at the performance location. The card holder would insert the IC card 13 into the ticket dispenser 30 and optionally enters the PIN number for verification. The ticket dispenser 30 then reads the e-ticket information recorded on the IC card 13, verifies the PIN

number entered, and then prints out a physical ticket that usually looks identical to all other tickets that were sold for that performance.

As can be appreciated, unlike the prior art, no physical ticket is mailed to the purchaser as it is printed at the performance site. Accordingly, in the present invention, there are no ticket delivery fees and the tickets can be sold right up to the performance start time.

By contrast, Klingman describes an online purchasing of products and paying for such products using cyber-cash, digi-cash or e-cash. However, while Klingman deals with selling goods that are to be used or consumed, it is not concerned with selling tickets for performances that are to be performed in the future. Applicant submits that selling tickets for performances according to the present invention is quite different from selling hard goods according to Klingman. Consequently, Klingman teaches nothing about issuing a *ticket or e-ticket for that performance*.

Unlike the Klingman reference, the present invention is not particularly concerned about the many different ways of purchasing a product (e.g., cyber-cash, digi-cash or e-cash). The present invention is about making online purchase of a future service safe and convenient. Using an IC card is a very safe way to carry e-ticket information. As all the information that is needed is on the IC card, there is no need to connect a ticket dispenser at the performance location to a ticketing server. The present invention also allows a ticket purchaser to keep, use, transfer and sell the ticket, which the purchaser received in the form of an e-ticket, by using the secure and safe medium of an IC card.

To make it clearer that the present invention deals with a *ticket* for such services or performances that are to be performed in the future, claim 1 has been amended to recite “dispensing a *ticket* for obtaining a service or performance to be performed in the future”. Accordingly, applicant submits that Klingman teaches none of the steps of claim 1 which deals with selling and issuing a ticket for a service or performance to be performed in the future.

As an example, Klingman fails to teach the step of “recording the e-ticket information received by the ticket purchaser on an IC card”. The only time a smart card is even mentioned in Klingman is at col. 3, line 66. However, the smart card in Klingman is used only for generating

a security code for purchasing a large volume of products, not for storing e-ticket information for later use in printing a physical ticket.

As another example, Klingman fails to teach the step of “dispensing a physical ticket based on the e-ticket information read from the IC card”. Klingman mentions not even one instance of the word “ticket” in the entire patent. Accordingly, applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over Klingman.

For the similar reasons as discussed above, applicant submits that independent claims 21, 37, 40, 44, 47, 51, and 61 are patentable over the Klingman reference. Dependent claims 2-20, 22-36, 38-39, 41-43, 45-46, 48-50 and 52-60 are also patentable by virtue of their dependency from the respective independent claims.

Claim 65 is directed to a method of issuing electronic coupons. Applicant submits that Klingman neither teaches nor suggests issuing electronic coupons. Dependent claims 66-68 are also patentable by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 65.

Based upon the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its earlier allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorney would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact him at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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